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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 14. Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify paragraphs 14.14, 14.16 to 14.18, 14.24, 14.28 to 14.30, 14.36 and 14.42 of the narrative of programme 14, Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1. The proposed revisions were submitted to the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board at its meeting from 20 to 24 June 1994.

4. The Cartagena Commitment, approved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, requires the Trade and Development Board to conduct, midway between Conferences, a review and evaluation of the work programme of the intergovernmental machinery, including its own; of

technical assistance programmes; and of the programme budget and medium-term plan, so as to ensure full integration of all work undertaken by the Conference and to establish or adjust priorities (see para. 68).

5. The revisions proposed to programme 14 reflect the outcome of this review and evaluation, which was undertaken by the Trade and Development Board at its fortieth session. The revisions include, inter alia, the programmatic implications of the newly established Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND TRADING OPPORTUNITIES

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 14.14 — After "398 (XXXVIII), annex C", insert "415 (XL), annex III;" and at the end of the paragraph add "TD/B/SCP/4, annex I, and TD/B/SCP/5, annex I".

Paragraph 14.16 — Replace subparagraph (d) with the following three new subparagraphs and renumber the remaining subparagraphs accordingly:

"(d) To identify new trading opportunities arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, in particular sectors and markets, with a view to enhancing the ability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries in transition concerned, to take full advantage of such opportunities;

"(e) To enhance the understanding of the implementation of the new rules deriving from the Uruguay Round agreements and their follow-up, and to identify where and how developing countries and economies in transition concerned could be assisted to make use of the special clauses of the Final Act providing differential and more favourable treatment; and to implement and benefit from the commitments undertaken;

"(f) To analyse the modalities to give effect to the decision on special provisions for least developed countries as contained in the Final Act embodying the results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations".

In the third line of present subparagraph (f), after "developing countries", insert "particularly in the context of the 1995 policy review on the generalized system of preferences and the implementation of its results,".

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 14.17 In subparagraph (f), after "multilaterally agreed principles", insert ", particularly in the context of the 1995 policy review on the generalized system of preferences and its outcome".

Paragraph 14.18 Replace subparagraph (e) with the following:

"(e) Identify and analyse new trading opportunities and the implications of the new rules arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, and study how to give effect to the decision on special provisions for least developed countries as contained in the Final Act".

Insert the following new subparagraph (k) and renumber the remaining subparagraphs accordingly:

"(k) Prepare complementary studies and reviews for the 1995 policy review on the generalized system of preferences".

SUBPROGRAMME 3. TRADE EFFICIENCY

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 14.24 At the end of the paragraph, add "; programme of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency (TD/B/39(2)9); and General Assembly resolution 47/183".

Paragraph 14.28 Replace subparagraph (f) with the following:

"(f) To follow up, as appropriate, the outcome of the 1994 United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency".

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 14.29 Replace subparagraph (a) with the following:

"(a) The establishment of Trade Points in all regions of the world; and the setting up of the Trade Points Global Network by interconnecting Trade Points".

At the end of subparagraph (b), add ", business information for trade, trade facilitation and telecommunications".

Replace subparagraph (f) with the following:

"(f) Follow-up to the 1994 United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency".

Paragraph 14.30

In subparagraph (a), replace "during 1992-1994 of 16 pilot" with "of" and in the ninth and tenth lines replace "trade points system" with "global network".

In the first line of subparagraph (c), delete "pilot".

Replace subparagraph (e) (iii) with the following:

"(iii) Banking and insurance: information, coverage, time, cost, access; provision and development of information for the benefit of traders at the Trade Points, giving them access to existing networks (e.g. Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)) or alternative ones; the development of mechanisms to widen traders' access to credit and to insurance services internationally, possibly through sector-specific international networks such as reinsurance and insurance networks".

Replace subparagraph (e) (iv) with the following:

"(iv) Business information for trade: cost, reliability, access; state of trade-related information; minimum requirements for Trade Point users, especially small and medium-sized enterprises; proposals for cost-saving on-line solutions, and off-line solutions whenever reliable telecommunications cannot be provided at reasonable cost; proposals for enhanced collection of business information for trade and development;"

Add new subparagraphs (e) (v) and (vi):

"(v) Trade facilitation: production of a compendium of trade facilitation measures and efforts; applicability to different types of countries; proposals to diminish transaction costs and documentation-related tasks;

"(vi) Telecommunications: cost, reliability, access; technical solutions allowing traders to gain access to and disseminate information in varying technological environments; proposals to improve infrastructures and capacity-building for the benefit of trading enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones".

In subparagraph (f), delete "OAS,".

In subparagraph (k), replace "EEC" with "EU" and "52" with "50".

Replace subparagraph (l) with the following:

"(l) Implement, as appropriate, activities resulting from the 1994 United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency".

SUBPROGRAMME 5. SHIPPING, PORTS AND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 14.36 After "UNCTAD;", insert "resolution A/CONF.162/8 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;".

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 14.42 Add a new subparagraph (m):

"(m) Reconvening with IMO the Joint Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects with a view to examining the possible review of the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to the Arrest of Sea-going Ships, 1952; and preparing, in consultation with the secretariat of IMO and relevant non-governmental organizations, the necessary documentation for the meetings of the Group."